

Bulletin: 9<sup>th</sup> May 2022

Distribution-: All Community Pharmacies by e-mail

## **Bupropion (Zyban®) and Smoking Cessation Support**

Following the ongoing unavailability of varenicline (Champix ®) for patients accessing the smoking cessation service, there has been a marked increase in queries regarding the use of the Bupropion (Zyban®). This bulletin is intended to support you in responding to such queries.

Zyban is a prescription only medication and not suitable for supply on PGD due to the nature of its side-effect and interaction profile<sup>1</sup>.

If considered appropriate, patients can be referred for assessment and prescribing (if deemed suitable) of Zyban by their GP. The below letter can be used for suitable patients.

However, when considering referral of patients to GPs for assessment, please note:

- The NICE guidelines [NG209]<sup>2</sup> indicate that when combined with behavioural support, Zyban is **less likely to result in successful quit** compared to varenicline, combination Nicotine Replacement Therapy (NRT) or nicotine-containing electronic cigarettes.
- Varenicline is not currently available (manufacturer cannot supply)
- Electronic cigarettes are not available on prescription.
- Zyban is on the NHS GGC formulary total list **but** not on the preferred list.

Zyban is licenced to aid smoking cessation in combination with motivational support in nicotine-dependent patients<sup>1</sup>. If patients being prescribed Zyban by their GPs choose to receive motivational support during their quit attempt from their pharmacy, their quit attempt **can be entered onto the Pharmacy Care Record (PCR)**. This will generate appropriate payment for delivery of support.

If you have any further queries please contact the Health Improvement Team at:  
West House, Gartnavel Hospital, 1055 Great Western Road, Glasgow G12 0XH  
T: 0141 201 4945      E: pharmacyhit@ggc.scot.nhs.uk

### References

1. BNF: [bnf.nice.org.uk/drug/bupropion-hydrochloride.html](http://bnf.nice.org.uk/drug/bupropion-hydrochloride.html)
2. NICE guidelines [NG209] [www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng209](http://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng209)

**GP Name:**

**GP Practice address:**

### **ZYBAN (BUPROPION) ASSESSMENT AND PRESCRIPTION REQUEST**

**PATIENT NAME:**

**CHI Number:**

The above patient is requesting support to stop smoking, which we are providing, and has requested to use Bupropion/Zyban®. As you are aware this is a prescription only medication and due to the nature of its side-effect and interaction profile is not suitable for supply on PGD.

I would be grateful if you would assess your patient's suitability for this medication based on their medical history. Should your patient be suitable, we would ask that a prescription be issued.

Please Note:

The NICE guidelines [[NG209](#)] indicate that when combined with behavioural support, Zyban is less likely to result in successful quit compared to Varenicline; combination Nicotine Replacement Therapy or nicotine-containing E-Cigarettes. However, Varenicline is not currently available (Manufacturer cannot supply) and E-Cigarettes are not available on prescription.

Zyban is on the NHS GGC formulary total list **but** not on the preferred list.

Many thanks for your assistance.

Yours sincerely

**Pharmacist's Name:**

**Pharmacy Address/Stamp**